



The Old Ironsides Report



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MP helps teach Iraqi canine trainers in Baghdad

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372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In an old jailhouse behind a Baghdad police station, something howls from behind the charred walls, where the windows are shattered and the remnants of the former regime are spray-painted on the doors. Here, police officers of the former regime tortured and harassed their captives, keeping them behind steel doors, in rooms about the size of walk-in closets.

Now, there is a fresh coat of paint on the prison walls, and the solid-steel doors have been replaced with cage doors. Those broken-out windows will be replaced soon, and a new air-conditioning duct runs along the ceiling. The cells inside are now clean and lively, and if you look closely inside one of them, you'll see puppies instead of prisoners.

Yes, puppies. That's because the some U.S. Army military police soldiers have converted the prison into a dog kennel.

Sgt. Emily Frasca, a police academy instructor with the 382nd Military Police Battalion, an Army Reserve unit out of San Diego, Calif., helped kick start the new Iraqi canine unit. The 382nd is attached to the 18th MP Brigade in Iraq and is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

Along with other soldiers in her unit, Frasca teaches classes at the police academy in Baghdad, and when someone asked her to help with the canine unit, she jumped at the opportunity.

"I love working with dogs," said Frasca. "And when they offered me the opportunity to be the liaison for the trainers and coordinate with the 18th MP Brigade to get equipment for these guys, I saw an opportunity to share what I know and what I've learned -- to help out."

The canine unit is quickly progressing. The Iraqi trainers are learning new methods of training, and the dogs are multiplying—one of the German shepherds has already given birth to five pups.

But the Baghdad canine unit has not always received this kind of support. Before the war, the canine unit was moved to a facility outside of Baghdad. Here, the trainers received very little support. They lacked the money to buy training equipment, vaccinations and training manuals.

Frasca said that the unit became so out of touch with the other police officers that they eventually became ineffective.

"The trainers were cut off from money and other dogs to breed theirs with," said Frasca. "They ended up inbreeding the dogs and working with the older training styles. They started training dogs that weren't fully capable of being police dogs."

After the coalition forces became involved with the Baghdad police force, they decided to bring the canine unit back into Baghdad. They cleaned out one of the old prison facilities and transformed it into a kennel for the dogs.

"When I saw the old torture camp, I looked into the cells and saw the potential for a kennel," said Frasca. "We turned the prison into a 13-room kennel, with an office in the back and a room for trainers to stay in overnight, so they could protect the dogs."

Aside from coaching the trainers on new methods of training, Frasca also helps assess the animals for strong and weak points. The dogs are then chosen for specific job training, such as bomb detection, attack or narcotics. If, for example, a dog has a favorite toy as a puppy, it is easier to train that dog for bomb detection.

"We look for the love of a toy," said Frasca. "This makes it easier for us to instill sniffing behaviors. We can test the dog to find the ball in a bush or in rubble. If they have a good sniffing behavior, it is easier for us to carry that behavior into searching patterns later on."



An Iraqi canine trainer coaches Hawon, a German shepherd police dog, as they search for TNT hidden in the wheel well of a new Iraqi police car during a training exercise at a police station in Baghdad.

Frasca says the dogs are also learning a new language. Because Frasca teaches in English, the Iraqi trainers bark English commands to their canines. In a way, this provides the trainers and their dogs with a coded language.

"This allows police officers to communicate with their dogs without the (Iraqi) locals understanding," said Frasca. "And in some situations, this can give us the upper hand."

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

Material Handling Equipment (MHE)

The following measures will prevent accidents during MHE operations:

- **Use ground guides at all times**
- **Operator must be properly licensed and trained**
- **Wear Kevlar or hard hat**
- **Wear your seatbelts**

NEWS

Car Bomb Kills Iraqi Officer, Wounds 19

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A suicide bomber, his body wrapped in explosives and his car filled with 50 pounds of TNT, struck a police checkpoint outside U.N. headquarters in Baghdad on Monday, killing an Iraqi policeman who stopped him and wounding 19 people. A U.S. military spokesman at the scene said the bomber, who also died in the 8:10 a.m. blast, was trying to get into the U.N. compound at the Canal Hotel, where a truck bomb a month ago killed 23 people including the top U.N. envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Monday's attack wounded two U.N. workers.

Probe Reveals al-Qaida's Fluid Planning

WASHINGTON (AP) - The interrogations of Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed portray an al-Qaida terror network that is fluid in its planning, willing to go slowly to achieve spectacular results and determined to carry out plots even when initially thwarted. Along the way, terrorist volunteers are shifted between different attack plots based on opportunity, according to interrogation reports reviewed by The Associated Press.

California Panel Hears Recall Delay Case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A federal appeals court panel began hearing arguments Monday on whether to delay California's gubernatorial recall election until next spring. The 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will decide whether to uphold a ruling made last week. In that ruling, judges said the election, scheduled for Oct. 7, should wait until six counties still using punch card ballots can upgrade to more reliable voting machines.

Hurricane Marty Nears Mexican Mainland

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico (AP) - Hurricane Marty weakened slightly as it headed toward mainland Mexico's Pacific coast Monday after knocking out power, flooding streets and flattening trees on the southern Baja California peninsula. One death was reported. Forecasters said Marty was expected to maintain hurricane strength as it crossed the Gulf of Mexico on its way to the mainland.

Death at Phil Spector Home Ruled Homicide

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The February shooting death of an actress at the home of record producer Phil Spector was ruled a homicide Monday by the coroner's office. Lana Clarkson was shot by another person and died of a single gunshot wound to the head and neck, said Lt. Cheryl MacWillie of the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: ***Life is Today***

Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.

--Madeline Bridges

Sometimes we feel lazy or bored, and then we don't do our best work. Maybe we daydream instead of listening closely. When we are not really paying attention to our activities or the people around us, we'll likely miss out on something important because we do receive in equal measure what we give. And this truth works in every aspect of our lives. When we treat people with kindness, we'll experience kindness in return. Our own actions and attitudes toward others are what we can expect from others as well.

SPORTS

-Man in Bryant Case Plot to Be Arraigned

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) - A Swiss bodybuilder accused of offering to kill the alleged victim in the Kobe Bryant sex assault case for \$3 million is scheduled for arraignment Monday. Patrick Graber, 31, a weight training coach with an expired visa, is being held on \$1 million bail after he was seized Thursday in El Segundo, Calif., as he reached for a bag filled with fake money, authorities said.

Oddly Enough...

Lulu the Kangaroo Helps Save Farmer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) -- An unlikely hero hopped onto the scene when a farmer suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a falling branch. The hero? A partially blind pet kangaroo. The eastern gray kangaroo, Lulu, stood guard over Len Richards' unconscious body Sunday and "barked like a dog" to get help, the farmer's daughter said. "She was obviously trying to get our attention because she never acts like that," said Celeste Richards, 17. "It went on for about 15 minutes, so we went outside to investigate and we saw Lulu standing upright with her chest puffed out over Dad's body. If it wasn't for her, my Dad could have died - Lulu is my hero," she added. Richards, 52, was checking his property in Morwell, southeast Australia, for damage following a severe storm when he was struck by a falling branch and knocked unconscious. The kangaroo, which has just one eye, was adopted by the family about 10 years ago when they found her in the pouch of her mother, who had been killed by a car. "Lulu and Dad are very close and she follows him around, but we all just love her so much," Celeste said.

On This Day In History: ***September 23^d 1779***

On September 23, the U.S. ship Bonhomme Richard, commanded for only one month by John Paul Jones, engaged the Serapis and the smaller Countess of Scarborough, which were escorting the Baltic merchant fleet. After inflicting considerable damage to the Bonhomme Richard, Richard Pearson, the captain of the Serapis, asked Jones if he had struck his colors, the naval sign indicating surrender. From his disabled ship, Jones replied, "I have not yet begun to fight," and after three more hours of furious fighting the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough surrendered to him. After the victory, the Americans transferred to the Serapis from the Bonhomme Richard, which sunk the following day. Jones was hailed as a great hero in France, but recognition in the United States was somewhat belated. He continued to serve the United States until 1787 and then served briefly in the Russian navy before moving to France, where he died in 1792 amid the chaos of the French Revolution. He was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1905, his remains were located under the direction of the U.S. ambassador to France and then escorted back to America by U.S. warships. His body was later enshrined in a crypt at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Source: historychannel.com